

I have been using a small ISP that provides services beyond the standard DSL provided by the local telephone provider (SBC/Yahoo in this case). These services include a secure shell, content control over various servers, application of a responsible realtime blackhole list, mail filtering, multiple fixed IP addresses, and secure SSL access to both POP3 and SMTP servers. SBC already charges Sonic.net more for the DSL connection than it costs to directly purchase their service from SBC/Yahoo!

Yahoo offers services by way of Yahoo stores and has a reputation of being spam friendly. I fear greater degradation of the Internet when smaller, albeit responsible providers, become forced out of business by way of unfair pricing. With charges to Sonic.net already greater than that obtained directly from their DSL customers, it is hard to imagine fair practices are being ensured. I would be highly concerned should oversight of their pricing structures be removed altogether. My ability to obtain a trustworthy and responsible provider is very much at stake.